SCENERY, ANIMALS
AND
NATIVE INHABITANTS
OF THE
ISLAND OF CEYLON

DANIELL

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A

PICTURESQUE ILLUSTRATION

OF THE

SCENERY, ANIMALS, AND NATIVE INHABITANTS,

OF THE

ISLAND OF CEYLON:

IN

TWELVE PLATES,

ENGRAVED AFTER THE DRAWINGS (FROM NATURE)

OF

SAMUEL DANIELL.

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N° I. VIEW OF THE HARBOUR OF TRINCOMALEE,

TAKEN FROM FORT OSTENBEEG.

The scenery about this noble bay and harbour is bold and romantic. It is surrounded with hills, and studded with islands, all of them covered with the most luxuriant shrubbery, the verdure of which is perpetual. The whole surrounding country may almost, indeed, be considered as in a state of nature, there being very little cultivation carried on in the neighbourhood of the bay. A few cottages interspersed about the skirts of the hilly coppices, tend to render the scenery more exquisitely beautiful. This situation, however, is considered as the most unhealthy spot on the island, a circumstance which may be attributed solely to the uncultivated state of the surrounding country.

N° II. THE SPOTTED STAG.

This beautiful animal of the Cervine or deer tribe, is called by the native Cingaleze, *Muwa*. This species abounds in many parts of Ceylon, in the vicinity of Close Jungles, wherein they conceal themselves by day, venturing out only to graze in the open country in the evenings after sun-set, and the mornings before he rises; at these times, it is not unusual to see them in herds of thirty or forty together. Its height is, in general, from three to three and a half feet; the colour a chocolate brown; the body marked all over with small round white spots. The male only has horns. In a state of nature, it is exceedingly shy and timid, but becomes bold and ferocious, and not to be trusted, when domesticated. The flesh is not much esteemed, having little fat upon it and being very dry.

The two birds introduced into this print are the male and female of the Jungle Fowl; the former, in the Cingalese language, called *Wali Keekala*, and the latter *Wali Kikili*. It is said, that no instance has been known of this bird being completely tamed; and it is even reported, that young chickens which have been hatched in a poultry-yard, from the eggs of the Jungle Fowl, never fail to make their escape as soon as they are able to provide for themselves, without the aid of their foster mother. The plant on which the male bird is perched, is a species of the *Bromelia*, or wild pine-apple, which, as well as the *Ananas*, or cultivated pine-apple, is very common in all of the Eastern islands. *Bromelia foliis margine dorsoque aculeatis, caule fulcrato spinoso.* The Cingalese name is *Waitakéyiya*. The large trunk in the back ground is the Ficus Indica, or Sacred Banyan Tree of India.

N° III. PORTRAITS OF TWO CINGALEZE.

The Cingaleze are divided into *casts*, of which there are not fewer than nineteen distinct tribes, who can only intermarry with persons of their own rank or profession. The portrait in the right hand is one of the highest class of the magistrates, known by the name of *Modelear*. The *Maha Modelear* at Columbo, is the chief of all the Cingaleze, who live under the right of the British government, and under his control there is a Modelear placed, at the head of every department of government. They are invested with the insignia of their office by the British government, in a public manner, and with no little ceremony.

The other portrait is taken from one of the fourth class, a *Durawa*, or gatherer of *Toddy*, or the juice of the cocoa nut and the palmyra tree, from which the ardent spirit arrack is distilled. It is wonderful with what agility these men will ascend both of these remarkably tall trees, and without any other aid but which is afforded by their hands and feet. The pots are fixed to the ends of the branches, into which an incision is made in the evening and are removed the following morning.

Drawn by Samuel Daniell. V.2

DISTANT VIEW OF TRINCOMALE.

London, Published March 1.1807 by Samuel Daniell 37 Cleveland Street Fitzroy square.

THE SPOTTED ANTELOPE.

A MALLA MOODELIAR AND TODDY GATHERER

N° IV. A VIEW BETWEEN GALLE AND MATURA.

The space which this scene occupies is sacred ground, and is situated at the distance of about six miles from the southernmost part of the island of Ceylon, called Point de Galle. The humble shed erected near the south rock is named *Gal-gé*, or the house of stone. The pyramidal building on the right is a mausoleum, which is supposed to contain the bones of no less a personage than Budhia, the principal and most ancient deity, worshipped by the Cingalese: its name is *Vihéra*. An edifice, similar to this, is generally met with near the temples of Budha, which temples are called *Viharé*. The tombs and the temples, from the similarity in the names, have often been confounded with each other. On one side of the rock there is a figure of Budha, hewn out of the solid stone, in a recumbent posture, which measures in length eight paces.

N° V. THE WILD HOG.

The only remarkable feature about this animal is the snout, which nature seems to have particularly adapted to the employment designed by it, which is that of ploughing up the ground, in search of roots. It is found in almost every part of Ceylon, especially in the Jungles, where large herds are not unfrequently met with, which are not to be molested with impunity, though perfectly inoffensive when not disturbed. Its usual size is that of the common hog of Europe; the colour, in general, black, inclining to grey on the neck and shoulders. The flesh being dry and of a high flavour, is not much relished by Europeans; but the natives are exceedingly partial to it. The resemblance to the common domestic hog of Ceylon, sufficiently indicates the origin of the latter. The Cingalese name of the wild hog is the *Wal-ura*.

The large tree in the left-hand corner of the print, with the fruit appending to it, is a species of the *Artocarpus*, or bread-fruit tree, commonly known in the oriental world by the name of *Jaca*, or the jack-fruit tree; and the species of crane, near the water, distinguished by Europeans by the name of Paddy Bird, from its visiting the swampy rice grounds, is called by the Cingalese the *Koka*.

N° VI. THE WATER CARRIER.

The usual mode of carrying water in India from the wells, or tanks, is in bags of leather, either on men's shoulders or across the backs of animals, as in the annexed print. The cattle of Ceylon, generally used for this purpose, are of a very diminutive size, with short horns, and a large hump upon the shoulders. The most predominant colour is black. They are, in fact, the common horned cattle of the continent of India, from whence they are frequently imported into the island, especially after an epidemic distemper, peculiar to them, has thinned their numbers. They are used to draw in carts and to drag the plough, but the most common manner of employing them, as beasts of burthen, is that represented in the annexed plate.

There is another species of the ox tribe on the island, which is much larger than the one in question, but is difficult to tame, on account of its extreme ferocity. It is about the size of, but the legs are shorter than, the common ox of Europe. Its horns bend backwards, it wants the hump on the shoulder, and has little or no hair to cover its hide. Even those that are tamed are dangerous to approach.

VIEW BETWEEN GALLE & MATTURA.

WILD BOAR.

WATER CARRIER.

N° VII. VIEW OF CALTURA.

The village of Caltura is situated on the bank of a beautiful river, at the distance of about twenty-eight miles from Columbo, with which it communicates by means of inland navigation, partly on rivers and partly artificial canals. The annexed view is taken at the ferry across the river, near which is a small fortification, built upon an eminence, commanding the river. From this delightful situation the mountain known by the name of Adam's Peak is distinctly visible. The banks of the river and the neighbourhood of the village of Caltura are finely clothed with the Teak tree, and the Cocoa and the Palmyra also abound. The inhabitants of the village are chiefly Cingalese.

N° VIII. THE ELK.

This animal, which, except for its short mane on the neck and throat, partakes very much of the stag kind, is found in great plenty near all the woods and thickets of the island. The individual from which the annexed representation was taken, was a young male; it measured in height from the top of the shoulder to the fore hoof, four feet; but, when full grown, they attain the height of five feet. The colour is a dark dusky brown, approaching on the neck, belly, and hind part of the thigh, to black. Though often met with alone, it is by nature gregarious. It has a harmless and inoffensive look; but is, in reality, so vicious, that it is scarcely safe, especially in the rutting season, to come near it. An officer stationed at Trincomalée, procured one of these animals when very young, which continued to be playful and harmless till the second year, when it became so vicious that he was obliged to shoot it. The female resembles the male, except that it is somewhat smaller and without horns. The name of the Elk, in the Cingalese language, is *Gona*.

The tree on the right-hand is singular in its appearance. It is a species of that genus of the palm-tribe, which botanists call *Caryota (frondibus bipinnatis.)* The Cingalese name is *Kitool*. The fruit above the animal is the Bromelia, or wild pine-apple; and the bird, in the right hand corner of the print, is a species of the Rhinoceros bird, or Hornbill.

N° IX. PORTRAITS OF A GENTOO MAN AND WOMAN.

Towards the northern coast of the island are great numbers of inhabitants who are descendants of the Malabars. The annexed portraits are representations of a Gentoo *Chitty* man and woman of Jaffnapatam, or Gentoos professing Christianity. These are in every respect a much superior race to the Cingalese. If, however, they are more active, more intelligent, and more enterprising, they are at the same time more addicted to vicious pursuits. Their dress, like that of the Malabars on the coast of India, is generally composed of one single piece of calico, or white muslin, tastefully wrapped round the body; the men wear turbans, but the women are always bareheaded; they are, in general, very elegant figures, and well featured: many of them may be reckoned extremely beautiful. The men are remarkably fond of wearing enormously large earrings, which are sometimes set with stones of considerable value.

THE FERRY AT CALTURA.

THE ELK.

A GENTOO CHITTY MAN & WOMAN.

Published August 1st 1807 by Samuel Daniell, N°. 8 Haverland street Fitzroy Square.

N° X. A VIEW OF THE FISHING COVE, NEAR COLUMBO;

WITH THE COUNTRY NEAR THE MOUTH OF THE KALANY RIVER, IN THE DISTANCE.

This view requires no explanation.

N° XI. THE ELEPHANT.

There are few animals, on the subject of which more has been written than on the Elephant; and few objects, till of late years, so inaccurately represented by the pencil. In Ceylon, this unwieldy creature attains to the largest size of which the species seems capable, and is found in great numbers in many parts of the island. In the neighbourhood of those places which they inhabit, they are a dreadful scourge to the poor peasantry, by their nightly visits to the paddy grounds and plantations of the cocoa nut.

The instances of superior sagacity, displayed by this animal, are so numerous, and so well authenticated, that it would be superfluous to dwell on the subject in this place; it may not be amiss, however, to mention the means he makes use of to get at the leaves and young fruit of the tall cocoa tree. He first of all walks round the stem, feeling and examining with his proboscis, as if to discover the weakest part, to which, when ascertained, he takes his station directly opposite; then placing his proboscis along the stem vertically, he swings the tree backwards and forwards till he has pretty well loosened the roots in the earth, when making one grand push with all his might, he seldom fails in bringing it to the ground. But in this act of exerting his utmost force, he is careful not to throw himself beyond his balance, for the moment he feels that the tree is giving way, he endeavours to recover himself, which he usually does by placing one of his fore feet against this lower part of the trunk, which at the same time enables him to let it fall gently to the ground. Whenever he happens to be unsuccessful, he expresses his anger by a loud shrill cry, and seeks out another object to try his strength upon.

N° XII. PORTRAITS OF A CINGALESE MAN AND WOMAN.

The great mass of the people who inhabit the island of Ceylon, may be divided into three distinct classes; the Cingalese, the Candians, and the Malabars. The two first seem to have sprung from the same origin, but have since been divided by local and political circumstances. The annexed portraits are Cingalese, from the Candian territories; they are a mild and inoffensive race of men, living chiefly on the fruits and other spontaneous produce of the earth; and are contented with a piece of cotton cloth for their clothing, sometimes made into a frock, but generally folded round the waist. Their features are in general regular, and the eye and nose of the same form as those of the European; and the colour is of various shades, from a deep brown to a pale sallow, approaching to white. They have always, however, black eyes and long black hair, which they turn up behind, and fasten on the crown of the head with a comb, or other instrument answering the same purpose. Their religion is that of Budha; and they have a language peculiar to themselves.

THE FISHING COVE NEAR COLOMBO.

THE ELEPHANT.

London, Published April 1, 1807, by Samuel Howard, No. 6 Compton Street, Soho Square.

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